AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for correcting color shift in an imaging system having an imaging object, and having a standard color conversion lookup table associated with said imaging object, comprising the steps of:

measuring a plurality of test patches to obtain color data associated with said imaging object;

generating a signature color data lookup ~~based on~~ including only a subset of said color data;

storing said signature color data lookup table in a memory associated with one of said imaging object, said imaging system, or an offsite location, for access by said imaging system;

installing said imaging object into said imaging system;

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said memory; and

combining said signature color data lookup table retrieved from said memory with said standard color conversion lookup table to generate a composite color conversion lookup table for use with said imaging object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said imaging object is one of a printing cartridge, a scanner and a substrate.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2, further comprising the steps of:~~

~~storing said signature color data lookup table in a memory associated with one of said imaging object, said imaging system, or an offsite location, for access by said imaging system;~~

~~installing said imaging object into said imaging system; and~~

~~retrieving~~ 1, wherein said subset of said color data contained in said signature color data lookup table ~~from said memory~~ is formed by selecting a pre-determined number of even-spaced points over a whole range of points along each primary color axis of a plurality of primary color axes.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said generating step includes:

generating a plurality of signature color data lookup tables for a plurality of imaging objects of a same type;

subdividing said plurality of signature color data lookup tables for said plurality of imaging objects of said same type into classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity;

generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables;

assigning a class code to each said color class table;

storing each said color class table in at least one of a first memory associated with said imaging object, a second memory associated with said imaging system, and an offsite memory, for access by said imaging system; and

storing said class code in at least one of said first memory associated with said imaging object, said second memory associated with said imaging system, and said offsite memory, for access by said imaging system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further including the step of associating said imaging object with a corresponding color class table, said corresponding color class table serving as said signature color data lookup table.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said associating step includes associating said class code with said imaging object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

installing said imaging object into said imaging system;

retrieving said class code from said first memory, said second memory, or said offsite memory; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said first memory, said second memory, or said offsite memory.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for correcting color shift in an imaging system having an imaging apparatus, and having a standard color conversion lookup table associated with said imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

printing a plurality of test patches using a printing cartridge and said standard color conversion lookup table;

measuring said plurality of test patches to obtain color data associated with said printing cartridge;

generating a signature color data lookup table based on said color data; and combining said signature color data lookup table with said standard color conversion lookup table to generate a composite color conversion lookup table for use in printing with said printing cartridge.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

storing said signature color data lookup table in a cartridge memory associated with said printing cartridge;

installing said printing cartridge into said imaging apparatus; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said cartridge memory.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said generating step includes:

generating a plurality of signature color data lookup tables for a plurality of printing cartridges;

subdividing said plurality of signature color data lookup tables into classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity;

generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables;

assigning a class code to each said color class table;

storing each said color class table in a first memory accessible by said imaging system; and

storing said class code in a second memory accessible by said imaging system.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, further including the step of associating said printing cartridge with a corresponding color class table, said corresponding color class table serving as said signature color data lookup table.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said associating step includes associating said class code with said printing cartridge.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

installing said printing cartridge into said imaging system;

retrieving said class code from said second memory; and retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said first memory based on said class code.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is a cartridge memory associated with said printing cartridge.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network, said class code being retrieved based on an identification code associated with said printing cartridge.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein:

said step of associating said printing cartridge with a corresponding color class table includes associating an identification code with said printing cartridge, and associating said identification code with said class code, and

wherein said step of retrieving said class code from said second memory is based on said identification code.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

storing said signature color data lookup table in an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network;

installing said printing cartridge into said imaging system; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said offsite memory.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

associating an identification code with said printing cartridge; and

associating said identification code with said signature color data lookup table,

wherein said step of retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said offsite memory is based on said identification code.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said measuring step is performed using said imaging system.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for correcting color shift in an imaging system having an imaging apparatus, and having a standard color conversion lookup table associated with said imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

printing a plurality of test patches on a substrate using said standard color conversion lookup table;

measuring said plurality of test patches to obtain color data associated with said substrate;

generating a signature color data lookup table based on said color data; and

combining said signature color data lookup table with said standard color conversion lookup table to generate a composite color conversion lookup table for use in printing on said substrate.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said generating step includes:

generating a plurality of signature color data lookup tables for a plurality of substrates;

determining said signature color data table based on said plurality of signature color data lookup tables; and

storing said signature color data table in a first memory accessible by said imaging system.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further including the steps of:

associating said substrate with said signature color data table; and

retrieving said signature color data table from said first memory,

wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said signature color data table corresponds to a category of said substrate.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further including the steps of:

associating said substrate with said signature color data table; and

retrieving said signature color data table from said first memory, wherein said first memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein said signature color data table corresponds to a category of said substrate.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein said plurality of substrates includes a plurality of categories of substrates, further including the steps of:

subdividing said plurality of signature color data lookup tables into classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity;

generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables;

assigning a class code to each said color class table;

correlating each category with a corresponding of each said class code, wherein each said class code is associated with at least one category of said plurality of categories;

storing each said color class table in said first memory; and

storing said class code in a second memory accessible by said imaging system.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further including the step of associating said substrate with a corresponding color class table, said corresponding color class table serving as said signature color data lookup table.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

installing said substrate into said imaging system;

retrieving said class code from said second memory based on said category; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said first memory based on said class code.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is an imaging system memory.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said first memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network and said second memory is an imaging system memory.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein said first memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network and said second memory is said offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via said network.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said measuring step is performed using said imaging system.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for correcting color shift in an imaging system having a scanner, and having a standard color conversion lookup table associated with said scanner, comprising the steps of:

measuring a plurality of test patches to obtain color data associated with said scanner;

generating a signature color data lookup table based on said color data; and

combining said signature color data lookup table with said standard color conversion lookup table to generate a composite color conversion lookup table for use in scanning with said scanner.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

storing said signature color data lookup table in a scanner memory associated with said scanner;

installing said scanner into said imaging system; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said scanner memory.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said generating step includes:

generating a plurality of signature color data lookup tables for a plurality of scanners;

subdividing said plurality of signature color data lookup tables into classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity;

generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables;

assigning a class code to each said color class table;

storing each said color class table in a first memory accessible by said imaging system; and

storing said class code in a second memory accessible by said imaging system.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, further including the step of associating said scanner with a corresponding color class table, said corresponding color class table serving as said signature color data lookup table.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein said associating step includes associating said class code with said scanner.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

installing said scanner into said imaging system;

retrieving said class code from said second memory; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said first memory based on said class code.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is a scanner memory associated with said scanner.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said first memory is an imaging system memory and said second memory is an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein:

said step of associating said scanner with a corresponding color class table includes associating an identification code with said scanner, and associating said identification code with said class code, wherein said step of retrieving said class code from said second memory is based on said identification code.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

storing said signature color data lookup table in an offsite memory accessible by said imaging system via a network;

installing said scanner into said imaging system; and

retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said offsite memory.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43, further comprising the steps of:

associating an identification code with said scanner; and

associating said identification code with said signature color data lookup table,

wherein said step of retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said offsite memory is based on said identification code.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein said measuring step is performed using said imaging system.